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11-16-1992

# 11/16/1992 - Berry Lecture

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "11/16/1992 - Berry Lecture " (1992). 1992. 948.  
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92-366

November 16, 1992

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORMER REAGAN ADMINISTRATION MEMBER TO LECTURE AT EASTERN

CHARLESTON, IL--Apartheid, black education in America, civil rights, the constitution, racism, and black history are some of the areas Mary Frances Berry, controversial Civil Rights Commissioner will address on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of Eastern Illinois University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Union.

Berry's lecture, free and open to the public, is the first "One Nation: Many Voices" lecture series sponsored by EIU's Cultural Diversity Committee.

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Berry has served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights since 1980. In 1983, President Reagan fired her, along with several other Commissioners who were outspoken critics of the Administration's civil rights policies. She sued, won the suit, and was reinstated by a Federal District Court. Subsequently, she was reappointed by the Congress to the reconstituted Commission.

As U.S. Assistant Secretary for Education in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare from 1977 to 1980, she coordinated nearly \$13 billion of federal education programs.

Berry has held faculty appointments at several universities and has served as chancellor of the University of Colorado-Boulder and as provost of the behavioral and social science division at the University of Maryland-College Park. Formerly a professor of history and law at Howard University in Washington, D.C., she is presently the Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought at the University of Pennsylvania.

An author of five books and a number of articles and essays concerning constitutional history and civil rights law, Berry has received 17 honorary degrees and several awards for her public service and scholarly activities.